

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 TRSE-00 SAI-01

DRC-01 /076 W

----- 031360

R 142000Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS USNATO 3406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SCUL

SUBJECT: INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORT IN THE U.S.

REF: USNATO 3235

FOR P DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALLAN AND MR. WISNER

1. FOLLOWING UP ON DISCUSSIONS AT CONIO MEETING DESCRIBED
REFTEL, THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE HAS SENT US THE FOLLOWING
PROPOSAL IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM NATIS DIRECTOR KOREN TO USNATO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR HAMILTON. THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE
TEXT OF THE LETTER.

BEGIN TEXT:

DI(74)417 14TH JUNE 1974.

WITH REGARD TO INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORT
IN THE UNITED STATES, AS DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT CONFERENCE
OF NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICIALS, ON WHICH THERE SEEMED TO
BE GENERAL AGREEMENT, I NOW SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE
UNITED STATES, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, TO PURSUE EXPLORATION
OF THIS IDEA.
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I HAVE IN MIND TO COMMISSION GILES KELLY AS A
CONSULTANT, TO WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE
APPROPRIATE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND NATO
INFORMATION SERVICE, IN ORDER TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY

AND MODUS OPERANDI OF A ONE-MAN OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

SHOULD YOUR AUTHORITIES ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING THEIR AGREEMENT BY 21ST JUNE, IF POSSIBLE, SO THAT WE CAN NOTIFY THE EURO-STAFF GROUP WHICH MEETS ON THAT DATE. AS YOU KNOW, THE EUROGRAOUP IS INTERESTED IN INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORTS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND COULD PROVIDE VALUABLE SUPPORT TO THE PROJECT OVER HERE, ONCE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE.

THE OUTCOME OF ANY UNITED STATES APPROVAL AND A SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATION OF THE PROJECT CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE GURANTEED, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT AN ORDERLY AND LOGICAL WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE, AS OUTLINED ABOVE, TO BRING IN GILES KELLY ON A CONSULTANCY BASIS. WE WOULD THEN AWAIT A REPORT FROM HIM IN TIME TO SUBSTANTIATE A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET REQUEST FOR DECISION IN OCTOBER. THIS REQUEST WOULD NEED TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATO BUDGETARY SCHEDULE, AND I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RAISE THE MATTER WITHIN NATO WITHOUT UNITED STATES SUPPORT.

I GIVE YOU BELOW SOME THOUGHTS I HAVE ON THE FUNCTIONS OF SUCH A CONSULTANT:

(A) WORK OUT BASIC GUIDLINES FOR THE BEST WAY OF CARRING OUT THE INCREASED NATO INFORMATION ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES;

(B) DETERMINE WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY AND THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES WHETHER THERE IS A BASIS FOR CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM SUCH AN OFFICE;

(C) DETERMINE THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH AN OPERATION;
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(D) IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONTINUITY FOR THE NATO INFORMATION EFFORT IN THE UNITED STATES, TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NEW NATO UNITED STATES REGIONAL OFFICER DURING HIS BREAKING-IN PERIOD, HELPING WITH NATO PANEL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION IT HAS BEEN FOUND ESSENTIAL TO HAVE SOMEONE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE US SPONSORS FOR SATISFACTORY LOCAL PLANNING. (IN THE PAST WE HAVE USED THE SERVICES OF MR MESSNER, BUT HE IS NATURALLY VERY BUSY WITH HIS OWN ACTIVITIES.)

(E) ASSIST IN ARRANGING THE EUROPGROUP PANEL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES EARLY IN THE AUTUMN.

FUNDS FOR THIS CONSULTANCY COULD, I BELIEVE, BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATO PERSONNEL BUDGET, BUT EXPRESSED AGREEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES WOULD BE NECESSARY. FUNDS FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES IT IS HOPED TO PROVIDE FROM OUR NATO INFORMATION BUDGET.

SUCH A SMALL INFORMATION OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD, I BELIEVE, ENABLE US TO DO A BETTER JOB OF IMPROVING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE UNITED STATES. I DO NOT, HOWEVER, CONTEMPLATE ANY ACTIVITY WHICH DOES NOT HAVE THE ACTUAL OR FUTURE AGREEMENT OF YOUR AUTHORITIES, OR WHICH IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE NATO INFORMATION PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS WAY IT IS FELT THAT A MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION COULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND OUR PRESENT EFFORTS EXTENDED. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH A TYPE OF SET-UP IS NOT UNFAMILIAR IN WASHINGTON, AS THE OECD, UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES ALREADY HAVE SUCH SMALL INFORMATION OFFICES.

I TRUST YOU WILL KINDLY FORWARD THIS PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN THE HOPE THAT A RESPONSE CAN BE OBTAINED BY 21ST JUNE.

END TEXT

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2. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REQUESTED PRIOR TO JUNE 21.
RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO03406
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740687/abbryvqw.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 3235
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <05-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORT IN THE U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SCUL
To: STATE INFO SECDEF
USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005